

EARL BLUMENAUER

Third District - Oregon

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Subcommittee on Health

COMMITTEE ON BUDGET



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-3703**

WASHINGTON OFFICE  
1502 LONGWORTH BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-4811  
FAX: (202) 225-8941

PORTLAND OFFICE  
729 N.E. OREGON STREET  
SUITE 115  
PORTLAND, OR 97232  
(503) 231-2300  
FAX: (503) 230-5413  
website: blumenauer.house.gov

June 24, 2016

Administrator Gina McCarthy  
Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Administrator McCarthy,

I write in support of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) recently released draft Biological Evaluations analyzing the effects of certain pesticides on endangered species nationwide. The evaluations, conducted pursuant to a legal settlement, found that 97 percent of more than 1,700 plants and animals protected under the Endangered Species Act are likely to be adversely affected by the pesticides malathion and chlorpyrifos, and that 79 percent are likely to be adversely affected by diazinon. After decades of these pesticides being used widely in our agricultural system, these evaluations offer the first proper analyses showing the extent of potential harm to endangered species nationwide. These alarming findings highlight the critical importance of this type of analysis in understanding the impacts of these and other pesticides on our most vulnerable species.

These evaluations should serve as a model for EPA to replicate as it investigates the effects of chemicals used in agriculture across the United States. As we grow ever more reliant upon these products, and as we approve new ones, we must understand how they impact our listed species and take informed actions to allow for possible future recovery and delisting of impacted species. This is consistent with the purpose of the Endangered Species Act, a precautionary statute, which seeks to prevent the loss of declining species and ensure their recovery.

Considering these issues, I urge you to conduct similar analyses for other widely used chemicals in an effort to be vigilant in understanding the impacts of pesticides on our country's at-risk plants and animals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Earl Blumenauer".

Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress